

1977: It was a Hall of a year

Mississauga Raiders began the football season in search of a paragraph in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The Raiders ended the 1977 season with their 57th consecutive win and fifth straight Central Ontario Senior Football League championship.

The Raider streak constitutes the longest known football winning streak but the Guinness people didn't have room for the record in their book.

Instead — in The Times top story of the year — the Raiders were honored by the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

In a special ceremony Sept. 18, a week after the Raiders' 48th win broke the unofficial world's record, Hall of Fame officials accepted Raider momentos for a special display case honoring the team.

The Times sports staff blew the dust of a pile of back issues for 1977 last week and picked some highlights of the year.

The Hall of Fame Raiders emerged the best story of 1977 but not far behind were countless other contenders.

The Times tips its hat to those involved in best of the following categories and in the case of a few stories offers its condolences.

A trio of 16 year olds are a toss up for best individual accomplishment of 1977.

Nancy Buys, who in her spare time attends Cawthra Park Secondary School, won the Canadian novice women's title at the national figure skating championships in Calgary last spring and recently won the junior divisional championship.

Joel McClintock, a Streetsville student between summers, finished fifth in the world water skiing championships. He also won two golds and a silver medal at the Canada Games.

The fastest youngster in Canada attends Glenforest Secondary School. Angela Bailey won the 100 metres at an international Tri-meet in California, at the Canadian Junior championships, and at the Ontario Senior championships.

Derbys biggest thrill

Derbys defeat St. Catharines Blackhaws in six games to advance to OHA junior B finals for first time in club history in the year's most thrilling story.

Four of the six games went into overtime and the Derbys trailed going into the third period in five of the games. The two clubs combined to fire 82 goals.

The Derbys came back on one occasion from a five goal deficit to down the Black Hawks.

Big Red is best club

Mississauga Track and Field Club (MTFC) which ran off with 31 medals at Super Meet II — emblematic of bantam, midjet, juvenile and junior Ontario championships. MTFC was nicknamed "Big Red" because of its flashy red uniforms.

Such outstanding athletes as Angela Bailey, Cindy Moore, Doug Hinds, Janette Wood and Gail Grant makes the MTFC the club of the year.

Cole Doty offered a hint to what is to come from MTFC trained athletes. Doty, the MTFC's first protegee, established himself as Canada's best sprinter last summer.

Year's biggest upset

Mississauga Canoe Club — the home of John Wood and many of his Team Canada team-mates — losing the Canadian championship for the first time in three years was the biggest upset.

Cheema Canoe Club of Nova Scotia defeated Mississauga, which defended its 1976 championship without national team members Jeremy Abbott, Gregg Smith and Wood.

Shortchanged by the ref

Seven hundred fans who turned out for Streetsville Derbys 1977-78 Central Ontario Junior B Hockey League home opener went home with their money refunded when the game officials didn't show up. That feat wins the biggest bungle of the year award.

Arrows disappointing

Mississauga Golden Arrows for failing to succeed on the road or at the gate in their second Ontario Hockey Association Senior A season are the disappointment of the year.

New uniforms, a new arena, new players and a new coach haven't changed the old Arrow habit of losing.

Best coach is Stern

Coach of the year is Larry Stern for bringing Sunday evening hockey back to Dixie Arena Gardens.

Stern took the disastrous Dixie Beehives of the Provincial Junior A Hockey League and in one short summer prepared Mississauga's oldest junior club to win the Provincial title.

The Beehives won nine out of 88 games the two previous seasons while finishing dead last. This year they have lost a mere handful of games while fighting for first place.

Tom Barrett coach of the Ontario Hockey Association junior B finalists Streetsville Derbys, and Walter Brooks, coach of the Canadian champion Mississauga United Mosquito soccer club receive honorable mention.

Beehive surprise

Dixie Beehives' incredible start this season in both the Provincial Junior A Hockey League and the Central Ontario Junior B Hockey League.

The junior B Beehives went through their first 11 home games without giving up a point.

The junior A club was undefeated in its first 12 games at home.

Biggest knockout punch

Coach, manager, jack of all trades Geoff Ellison quit the Mississauga Boxing Club, providing Mississauga with the most detrimental resignation of the year.

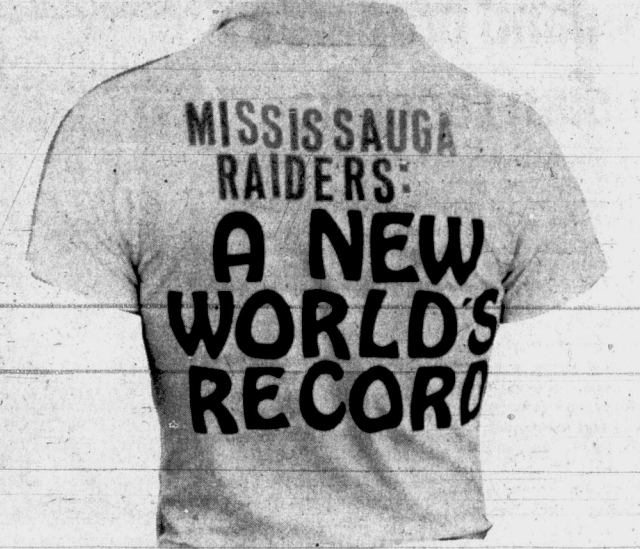
The reason? Disenchantment with Ontario amateur boxing after two of his fighters were victimized by poor decisions at the Ontario Golden Gloves championship.

The result? At the end of 1977, the MBC is a mere shadow of its former self. It is barely carrying on operations and the Gymnasium Club has folded.

Can't forget the fans

Derby fans for traipsing around southern Ontario to cheer on their heroes are the fans of the year.

A honorable mention goes to the die-hards at Cawthra Park secondary school.



The Raiders didn't get the Guinness record, but they got into the Hall of Fame.



The Dixie Beehives went from the bottom to the top in one year.

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Mississauga United won the Canadian championship in its first year of existence.

They said it in '77

The ghosts of quotes past and present

By CHRIS ZELKOVICH

The 1977 sports year in Mississauga was a varied one, spiced by winning performances and scattered with losing ones.

But win or lose, draw or default there was always someone to comment on the proceedings. Some of the comments have come back to haunt the commentators, others will be remembered solely for their impact or irony.

Following are the outstanding quotes of the 1977 sports year:

Do they get overtime?

Streetsville Derby centre Gary Venner on why the Derbys were getting so many suspensions: "I don't know, it's like shift work. As soon as three guys come back from suspensions another three get them."

Maybe next year

Erindale College athletic director Bob Ryckman on the college's entry into inter-school football: "It could be a good rivalry with Sheridan if it works out." Erindale lost 49-1 and 48-8 to Sheridan.

A very practical man

Mississauga Golden Arrow coach Tony Callam, reflecting on his team's 2-22 record: "You want to know what our plans are for the rest of the year? To get this season over with as soon as possible."

That would explain it

Clarkson Junior basketball coach Ron Tauer following a 55-35 loss to Applewood Heights: "The players took a bottle of Sominex at half-time."

How about warming up more?

Dixie Ventures coach Norm Dowdall on the big crowd for a playoff game at Dixie Arena: "We had more fans for the warm-up than we usually have for the game."

You weren't kidding

Larry Stern, after being hired as coach of the Dixie Beehives: "I think the people of Mississauga will be surprised next year."

Hunting for mushrooms?

Racewalker Glenn Sweazey after suffering food poisoning that knocked him out of a national race: "It was awful. I spent half the race in the bushes."

An agreeable man

Lacrosse referee Al Graham on how he deals with fans: "I used to get upset when they called me names. Not any more. When they call me a stupid ass, I say, 'You're right, I am a stupid ass.'"

Way to cut those expenses

Mississauga Raiders coach Alex Orr after the Raiders beat the Newmarket Steelers 102-0: "We usually wash all the sweaters after the game. This one was so easy we only washed 10 of the 36."

My kind of hockey player

An Oakville Blades player commenting on Streetsville Derbys' rambunctious centre Gary Venner: "Every team needs a guy like him, a guy who forgets he's a human being for two hours."

But it was only a game

Erindale Raiders coach Mike Armstrong after Graydon's Kim Albrecht almost returned a punt 90 yards for a touchdown in the PSSAA Junior final: "When he went by our bench, my whole life flashed before my eyes."

How about Roger Neilson?

Weston Dodger coach George Storey on the 1976-77 Dixie Beehives: "You could put Punch Imlach behind their bench and it wouldn't make any difference because of all the changes the players have been through this year."

That's positive thinking

Goaltender Al Smith, who quit the Buffalo Sabres and planned to play with the Mississauga Golden Arrows: "I'm not too upset about playing with them. After all, they won five games last year which is five more than I won."

Tell that to the catcher

Mississauga Sabres designated hitter Cec Kozloski after he bowled over Leaside Leafs catcher Bill Weeden: "I slid into third on the play before and that was my first slide in 12 years. I just couldn't see myself sliding into home. That just wouldn't do."

How about their pulse?

Streetsville Derbys coach Tom Barrett after a 10-3 loss to Stratford: "They (the Derbys) played like donkeys. They couldn't have checked their coats."

A rose by another name

Mississauga Golden Arrows coach Tony Callam commenting on the team's movement to six home arenas in its first season: "We shouldn't be called the Mississauga Golden Arrows. We should be called the Mississauga Gypsies."

The boss was lucky

Dixie Ventures coach Norm Dowdall after a 5-3 victory over Streetsville: "I almost missed this game because of work. If I had, I would have punched my boss in the nose."

Brilliant strategy

Cawthra Park Panthers football coach John Danson after his team scored 29 points in the second half to beat Bramalea 44-15: "What happened at half-time? I just screamed at them a lot."

And probably the last

J. A. Turner football coach John Tutty after his team beat Clarkson while wearing York University uniforms: "That's the first time this year those uniforms have won a game."

Will you hand me the envelope, please?

Another sports year has come to an end in Mississauga, as well as most other places in the world. Once again the past 365 1/4 days have been full of sports activity, both successful and unsuccessful.

Once again it is time to honor those who stood out most during the past year, either for great accomplishments, great failures or unique achievements.

Following are the second annual dubious accomplishment awards for Mississauga:

The No-Cure Whiplash Award for the fastest turnaround of 1977 goes to the Dixie Beehives, who went from being the worst team in hockey to one of the best.

The Galapagos Tortoise Gradual Progression Award goes to the

Mississauga Golden Arrows, who moved from eighth place to seventh when the Lindsay Lancers folded. At this rate of progression the Arrows should place first in a one-team league in 1984.

The Dr. Christian Barnard Award for Heartlessness goes to the Mississauga Raiders, who beat the Newmarket Steelers 102-0.

The Dodge Dart Award for Sensibility goes to the Newmarket Steelers, who folded operations before they played their second game against the Mississauga Raiders.

The Dennis Moore Highway Robbery Award goes to the Peel secondary school teachers, whose work-to-rule deprived the undefeated Woodlands Rams and T. L. Kennedy Kougars of basketball championships.

The Daffy Duck Birds of a Feather Award goes to the Mississauga Golden Arrows, the worst team in

amateur hockey, who aligned with the Kalamazoo Wings, the worst team in professional hockey.

The Richard Nixon Coverup Award goes to a certain high school football player who played his second straight season under an assumed name. Only three more years to go.

The Granny Smith Apple-Swallowing Award goes to the Mississauga Builders, who suffered the indignity of losing in the first round of the playoffs.

The Rags to Riches Award goes to Mississauga Raider Dwight Edwards, who avoided embarrassment and a lot of other nasty things when he was cut by the Toronto Argonauts.

The Light At the End of the Tunnel Award is shared by the Port Credit and Clarkson Senior football teams,

which ended 15-game losing streaks this year.

The Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award goes to the Gordon Graydon Hawks and Erindale Raiders, who lost to Port Credit and Clarkson this year.

The Swollen Forehead Award for continuous beating of one's head against a wall goes to Erindale College basketball coach Mike Lavelle, who once again failed in his bid to get Erindale into the OUA.

The Rags to Riches Award goes to the Dixie Ventures, who went from the bottom to the top to the bottom all in one season. May they rest in peace.

Following are a few predictions on the winners of the 1978 awards:

The Cold Reality Award will go to

the Dixie Beehives, who will start losing again and remind everyone what a cold, dark, depressing place Dixie Arena really is.

The Rocket to Stardom Award will go to the Mississauga Golden Arrows, who will take first place when the rest of the league folds.

The Cold 'n Golden Award will go to the Erindale Senior football team. Again.

The Hamlet Award for Revenge will go to the Woodlands Rams and T. L. Kennedy Kougars, who will go on strike just before the Peel basketball playoffs.

The Justifiable Suicide Award will go to Mike Lavelle when Erindale is accepted by the OUA. His suicide will follow when the OUA drops basketball.



Chris Zelkovich

The Mr. Bruce Bum Rap Award goes to Lorne Park Senior football coach Dave Hart, who accused a local sports columnist of calling his defence "suspect". A check of the records